

No 8 Wines Limited Tasted in a line-up of premium Hawkes Bay syrahs - a very strong class with four of the wines of gold medal standard. This was the stand out wine in the class. Rod McDonald has in the past shown us his considerable winemaking talents when he was making sublime wines for Vidals at their Hastings winery. As memorable as the Vidals 2004 reserve shiraz may have been and the stellar 1998 Joseph Soler Cabernet, this wine, his own, pips them for sheer complexity and unadulterated sensual pleasure. Black as pitch, with an intense aromatic compote of black berries and satsuma plum, laced with wood spices, cinamon and sechuan pepper. The palate is long and silky with an elegant tannin profile adding balance to the fruit. Nothing is out of place; the acid giving a verve to its step whilst the overall sensation is akin to taking your taste buds on a exotic joy ride that never seems to end.

97/100

To appear on the Jeremy Oliver Website

Hawkes Bay - It is not a simple proposition! by Douglas Neal